

## Senior Reflections

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble." –Psalm 91:2*

At age 13, I was the oldest of three siblings when David was born on Christmas Day. David began walking early at 9 months since I had spent time teaching him. Also during his first year, we had enjoyed summer afternoons outdoors as we sat in the grass and watched ants crawl up blades of grass.

But David became sick soon after his first birthday, between Christmas and New Year's Day. He was admitted to the hospital with a very high fever. His condition was such that the doctor prepared us for his death and I was not willing to lose one of my siblings to death. But Dad and Mom gathered us together in the living room that day and read most of Psalm 91. The verse I remember is "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble." As we knelt to pray, our prayer was for David's healing.

Eventually David was released from the hospital and sent home where his siblings helped with therapy since his whole right side had been paralyzed. Also he was slower in learning and walking. Later we learned his brain cells had deteriorated because of the high fever so that he remained mentally challenged throughout his life.

God answered our prayers for David's survival. But I questioned God—"Why didn't you heal David fully?" I don't know the answer to that question yet—but I do know David made a difference in my life and in the lives of my siblings. Because of David, we have learned compassion for others.

For myself, I know from experience that God's promise to be with me and never forsake me is certain. I also have experienced that "God is my refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble."

—Cathy Hochstetler

## Stephen Ministry Training Continues

This coming week the Stephen Ministry training class will be considering the subject of "Process verses Results in Caregiving." During this session they will be learning the difference between their role as caregivers and God's role as Caregiver.

## What are you bringing next week?



Lynda Hollinger-Janzen will be sharing with children in worship on February 15. Please bring something that represents your own tenacious commitment to Christ. The worship theme is "Jesus' resolute ministry in the face of opposition."

## Mennonite Women's Fellowship

MWF meets this Thursday, February 12th. Come anytime from 8:30 a.m. to noon, and join in knitting, knotting, and quilting. We will share our lunch together. Soup will be provided, so bring along something to share with the soup and each other.

## Care Packages

You are invited to bake cookies for our College Student care packages. We hope to fill 30 care packages delivered/sent before Valentines Day. Cookies can be dropped off at JD's office Sunday Feb 8. Let's share a smile with our WMC college students.

## YOTB Bible Reading Update

It's been encouraging to hear of the progress that many in the congregation have been making in reading through the entire Bible together during our Year of the Bible activities. Word has it that at least a couple people have actually read the entire Bible since September and are starting through it a second time!

If you are following the suggested plan, you are approaching the midway point. The end of February will mark 26 weeks, bringing you to the approximate midpoint. Please remember to add your name to the "books" posted outside the northwest corner of the sanctuary, near the library.

## Office Hours

Due to Angela being on vacation this week, the office hours will be 9 a.m.–12 p.m. on Tuesday–Thursday this week, February 10-12.

## Service Auction Date Set

Save the date for the annual MYF Service Auction, which is used to support faith formation activities for high schoolers throughout the year.

This year's auction is set for Sunday, March 8. We'll begin the evening with food, followed by the opportunity to bid on food, meals, and services provided by MYFers and their families.

Keep watching the Buzz and our Facebook page for more information.

—Lyle Miller, Pastor of Family Life & Financial Stewardship

## Endowment Proposals Invited

Proposals are now being accepted for the spring 2015 distribution cycle from Waterford's Endowment Fund. A total of \$4,400 is available from this cycle. In addition, because of a unique timing situation, \$2,100 was not distributed in the fall 2014 cycle, making a total of \$6,500 available in this cycle.

Proposals are invited from ministry teams and other recognized groups at Waterford. In addition, you may develop a proposal on behalf of an organization that you are connected to. Applications are available in the literature rack by the mailboxes.

—Lyle Miller, on behalf of the Endowment Committee (Elvina Schmidt, chair; Jerry Detweiler; Jon. Wieand; Jim Fisher, lay ministry partner for Facilities & Finance Ministry Team; Tim Burkholder, Ministry Leadership Council chair; Lyle Miller, Pastor of Family Life & Financial Stewardship)

## Thank You

We are very grateful for the various expressions of care and support we felt from the church following the passing of my father, David Swartz on January 23rd. The cards & expressions of sympathy reminds us of your care and what a blessing it is to be part of a caring community. Thank you!

—Sheldon & Velma Swartz

## JYF Winter Retreat Photos



## Unity and Variance Survey

The Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference survey on Unity and Variance, mentioned in last week's Buzz, is now online. It is available in English at <http://bit.ly/in-mi-unity-variance-en> or Spanish at <http://bit.ly/in-mi-unity-variance-es>. These must be completed and received by Feb. 21. Paper copies are also available at the participation station and should be mailed directly to the conference office by Feb. 18.



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The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Tuesday preceding publication.

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